

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. Merkulov one of Beria's men, not tall, he has a square face and a broad nose. He is a very determined and an intelligent person. He graduated from high school in the Czar's time. Subsequently he completed an advance school of NKVD. Thus, he has both general and Party education which is very important in the Soviet Union. 25X1
2. He, together with his brother, belonged to a group of young Communists sponsored by Ordzhenikidze in the twenties, which also included Beria, Lopshmadze, Rudu Kachamalian and others. Merkulov began his career as a Komsomol, and then was drafted into the Army where he served in the Frontier Guards. He met Beria in the NKVD in 1925-26 and these two developed friendly relations. Since then Merkulov followed closely in Beria's footsteps, together with Dekonozev and Millshtein. 25X1
3. When Beria became an important personality in the NKVD of Georgia, he appointed Merkulov as chief of the NKVD in Batum. Later on Beria transferred him to Tiflis where Merkulov worked with Beria. When Beria moved to Moscow, he took Merkulov with him, together with Raphael Millshtein, Kopulov and his brother, Dekonozev (the former ambassador in Berlin and present Minister of Internal Affairs in Georgia). Merkulov is a Russian from Tiflis, but speaks Russian with a Georgian accent. 25X1
4. Although Merkulov is a very interesting and a prominent figure, he will never reach beyond secondary posts because he is completely overshadowed by Beria. [] he could have had an independent career of his own if he had not tied himself so closely to Beria. 25X1
5. As a person Merkulov is not cruel, although he is reserved and demanding. [] it was possible to carry on a normal conversation with him. He liked to hear and to tell anecdotes. In general Merkulov is definitely the same type of person as Beria and Bagirov. They are all "Chekists." 25X1

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